Development in PoK

3335. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many pockets in PoK including northern areas are in ferment;

(b) if so, whether Government are paying or is going to pay more attention to the question of monitoring and analysing developments and trends in Pakistan controlled region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Government are aware of reports that disturbances have taken place in many areas of Pakistan occupied Kashmir including the Northern Areas.

Government closely monitors all developments that have an impact on the country's security. Government also remains firm in its resolve to take all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and territorial integrity.

Guidelines Regarding use of Hindi by Diplomats

3336. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any guidelines regarding the use of Hindi by our diplomats/official Delegations with foreign meetings/delegates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when was these guidelines issued to our Missions last;

(d) whether there is any monitoring mechanism for this purpose; and

(e) if so, last report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued by the Department of Official Language that whenever officials and Indian Delegations go abroad if they use Hindi in conversation with their colleagues and counterparts it will enhance the prestige of the country.

(c) to (e) The latest edition of the Manual regarding the use of the Official Language Hindi brought out by the Department of Official Language was issued to all Missions abroad on 12.1.1999. It has been the endeavour of our Missions to follow the guidelines to the extent possible.

Talks with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh

3337. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discussed with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh Governments as regards to the use of their territories by Indian insurgents against our country; and

(b) if so, what are the responses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is aware and concerned about the misuse of Nepalese territory and the open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest. Reports received by the Government indicate evidence of Indian extremist elements from Punjab and Kashmir, with the help of ISI, using Nepal as a staging post for terrorist activities directed against India and the Nepalese Government have been sensitised on this issue.

Measures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to effective border management. The concerned agencies of the two Governments remain in regular touch to coordinate efforts to tackle this problem. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks, which have been evolved to specifically develop cooperation on security matters and to address these concerns. In pursuance of the decisions taken in these meetings, both sides have agreed to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous bordfer districts of India and Nepal, to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border for activities directed against India. On their part, the Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

The presence of Indian militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. India and